

Quarterly

NEWS LETTER

WINTER ISSUE 2021

BeST

Beryllium Science & Technology Association



Dear Valued Readers,

Welcome to the First edition 2021 of the Quarterly Newsletter!

In this edition, BeST will provide an overview of the European Parliament top priorities to watch in 2021, the importance of beryllium within the 2021 European Year of Rail, and the use of beryllium in fighting COVID-19.

In addition, we will provide insight on how the recently agreed Brexit deal will affect chemicals and touch on BeST's most recent webinar while announcing new events to come.

We wish you a very pleasant reading!

Kind Regards,

Prof Dr. Andreas Köster, Chairman of BeST

Table of Contents

- Beryllium Makes it to the Top Ten Issues to Watch in 2021 According to the European Parliament	03
- 2021 as the European Year of Rail and the Role of Beryllium	04
- The Use of Beryllium during the Fight of Covid-19	05
- EU-UK Brexit Agreement	06
- BeST Holds Beryllium Safety Webinar in French	07
- We have a Brand New Website!	08

Beryllium Makes it to the Top Ten Issues to Watch in 2021 According to the European Parliament

As announced in our last quarterly newsletter, thanks to its unique and enabling properties, beryllium will keep its spot within the EU critical raw materials list at least until 2023. Beryllium's access to this "VIP list" of 30 raw materials will put it in the spotlight throughout 2021. At the beginning of January, the European Parliament released its annual prediction of the ten most important policy issues that should be closely monitored during 2021 and, guess what? Critical raw materials are one of them! How has that happened?

The sudden disruption of global supply chains caused by the coronavirus crisis delivered a resonating wake-up call to the European Union and specifically to the European Parliament. Policy makers are acknowledging the fundamental role played by critical raw materials. In its annual prediction list, the Parliament recognises that the EU cannot become a stronger geopolitical player on the global stage without safe and sufficient access to CRMs, because CRMs are needed to produce high-tech and high value-added products and to develop key technologies. The European Parliament understands that if the EU wants to achieve its ambitious digital, technological and, green revolution, special attention should be given to ensuring a secure, sufficient, and constant supply of CRMs.

As policy makers increase the promotion of European access to CRMs, there is an oppor-

tunity to educate them and the wider public on the importance of beryllium to society. A recent in-depth study published by the European Commission on critical raw materials reminded us that there are many sectors within the European market for which beryllium is essential. Beryllium is contained in robotics, surgical and medical devices, drones, automobile and airplane equipment, electric motors and essential for the EU defence industry. These are only a few of the sectors in which beryllium is contained and for which the EU is aimed at concentrating its efforts during the upcoming years.

As a consequence, the EU is planning to increase investments and financing opportunities for CRMs. To that aim, the EU is planning to use its several financial instruments (Just Transition Mechanism, InvestEU program, Horizon Europe) to support new mining projects to develop domestic production of CRMs. For these CRMs which production is not possible, the EU is looking to establish strategic partnerships with Canada, interested African countries, and the EU's neighborhood. A coherent and comprehensive plan from the EU on CRMs and beryllium will make sure that the EU achieves its environmental and technological goals. BeST will be ready to support the European Institutions in ensuring that safe and secure access to beryllium is guaranteed!

More information about the European Parliament's report can be found [here](#).

2021 as the European Year of Rail and the Role of Beryllium

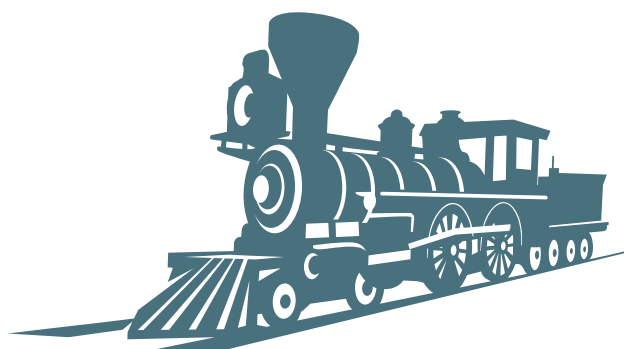
Talking about beryllium's importance in building mechanical components and electric vehicles, 2021 is the European Year of Rail!

From 1 January 2021, the European Commission is expected to table a set of initiatives that will highlight the benefits of rail as a sustainable, smart, and safe means of transport. At the same time, the European Commission has already announced that will present several proposals that aim at enhancing the European rail network and promote the use of electric propulsions within rail transports.

Once again, beryllium becomes an important part of this European strategy. Copper-beryllium alloy connectors are used throughout the electrical systems of cars, trucks, and rails for their reliability. They are also very important to improve vehicle fuel efficiency. Also, lightweight copper-beryllium components are found in traction controls, transmissions, electric motors, and fuel injection systems. Seems all relevant for the European Year of Rail!

It is no coincidence that the European Commission has mentioned raw materials in its communication on the European Year of Rail entitled "Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy – putting European transport on track for the future". We read, once again, that "raw materials are essential to reduce the environmental footprint of electric vehicles". Beryllium will play an important role within the European Year of Rail and BeST is ready to support the European Commission's actions in achieving its environmental goals through secure, consistent and safe uses of beryllium.

More information about the European Year of Rail can be found [here](#).



THE USE OF BERYLLIUM DURING THE FIGHT OF COVID-19

Did you know that beryllium is helping in the fight against COVID-19?

Beryllium's unique properties are essential to life-saving medical technologies and equipment. Due to its perfect X-ray transparency, Beryllium is indispensable for X-ray windows used in high-resolution medical radiography, including CT scanning and mammography. Thanks to its strength and stability, beryllium can handle elevated levels of heat resistance while undergoing an x-ray. Similarly, Beryllium also is used in optical lenses, helping to simplify surgeries and analyse blood.

As the Coronavirus disease often targets the lungs, beryllium has played a key role in helping patients to continue breathing. Indeed, Copper-beryllium contactors, thanks to their reliability and strength, are widely used in the building of respirators.

Within this context, BeST is following closely the developments of the pandemic and guiding policy makers towards scientifically and evidenced-based regulations.

EU-UK BREXIT AGREEMENT

On 24 December 2020, the EU and UK announced the successful completion of a trade and cooperation agreement (TCA). After several years of tough negotiations, setbacks, and risk of a “no-deal”, the EU and the UK have managed to find an agreement.

With regard to chemicals, despite previous concerns regarding the revocation of UK company's licenses, ten associations representing key sectors in Europe and the UK – including Cefic and the UK's Chemical Business Association (CBA) – reported to Chemical Watch that ECHA's revocation of UK-held EU REACH dossiers is expected to have a limited impact on supply chains. In fact, ECHA identified only 268 UK-only registered dossiers (1% of all EU registered substances), of which only 38 include a full registration and will need to go again through the REACH registration process.

However, the TCA failed to address data-sharing concerns. Despite the UK government's hopes to convince the European Commission to grant the UK authorities access to the full substance datasets held by ECHA, only access to non-confidential information was agreed in the deal. Such access would have allowed the UK REACH database to be populated at virtually zero cost. Instead, UK companies will now have to gain access through commercial negotiations with data holders.

As the UK is an important partner for the beryllium industry, BeST will actively follow the development of chemical regulations in the UK and continue to advocate for scientifically based and evidenced policymaking.

BeST Holds Beryllium Safety Webinar in French

On 15 December 2020, BeST hosted its third **Be Responsible Webinar – Working Safely with Beryllium in French**. The webinar gathered stakeholders from a variety of sectors, including industrial hygienists and relevant companies, together with government representatives and University researchers. The meeting hosted three expert guests: BeST's Secretary-General Angélique Renier, Dr. Patrick Levy (Director of the Risk, Health and Products at SOCOTEC Environment) and Dr. Valérie Rooryck (Preventive Risk counsellor at Hygiène Industrielle).

Dr. Levy introduced participants to how the different EU regulatory frameworks (REACH and OSH) work in practice, their functioning, specific requirements, and the interfaces between them. He went through the EU legislative process of setting Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs) and briefed the audience on the current OELs set on beryllium.

Ms. Renier continued the webinar by presenting the “Be Responsible Program” – BeST's voluntary stewardship program developed by the beryllium industry and launched in March 2017. Be Responsible addresses health and safety concerns during the processing of beryllium-containing alloys. Beyond berylli-

um-containing materials, the information and recommended actions contained in this program can be used to address concerns in industries processing dangerous metals or substances by inhalation.

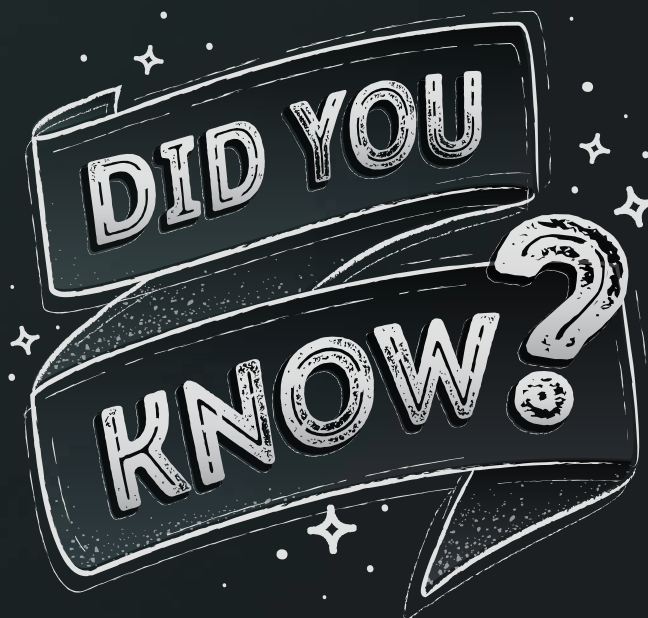
Ms. Renier carefully explained the potential risks that the inhalation of beryllium dust could cause to human health. She then presented strategies and proper behaviour to avoid such exposure from happening.

Dr. Rooryck concluded the presentation with a short presentation on hygiene practices to adopt at work to reduce possible exposure to beryllium dust. She also shared several good practices that workers should implement before and after coming into contact with beryllium.

The webinar ended with an engaging Q&A session. BeST is pleased with the success of this webinar series and looks forward to holding similar programmes throughout 2021.

More information about the “Be Responsible Program” can be found [here](#).

WINTER
ISSUE / 2021



We have a Brand New Website!

We are excited to announce that a brand new version of the BeST website has been released! The new site contains additional information on EU regulations and beryllium in the environment.

These updates complement the wealth of information already on the site, on issues such as beryllium uses, health, and safety.

Get the latest news on [BeST online](#).

BeST can also be found on Facebook. 'Like' [the page](#) and be notified when there is news from our association.

BeST

Beryllium Science & Technology Association